

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR ANTARCTIC FISH

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 12 September 2007

USER GUIDE

The information in MAFBNZ animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAFBNZ import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections that outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

Part E. APPENDICES contains the list of Antarctic fish species eligible for import into New Zealand.

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for Antarctic fish.
- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of Antarctic fish imported into New Zealand is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the

originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Import Standards Manager.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs to MAFBNZ in performing functions relating to the importation of Antarctic fish must be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with importation such as documentation, quarantine, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance must be borne by the importer or agent. MAFBNZ must not accept any liability for any losses sustained through quarantine procedures if fish are destroyed because of disease or parasites, or because they are prohibited species.
- 2.3 The importer must make all arrangements for transport and obtain necessary transit authorities from any third countries on the transport route.
- 2.4 The importer must notify the supervisor of the transitional facility a minimum of 72 hours before the expected time of arrival of each consignment.
- 2.5 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current version of the relevant import health standard at the time of importation into New Zealand. Current versions of import health standards are available online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>
- 2.6 Please note that the Customs Import Prohibition (Toothfish) Order 2006, administered by the New Zealand Customs Service, prohibits the importation of Antarctic toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*) unless it is covered by a completed catch document issued by a party to the Convention in accordance with the Conservation Measure.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction)

Biosecurity direction

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act (1993), to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to re-export those goods from New Zealand

Certifying official

A person authorized by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to sign international veterinary certificates

Inspector

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993)

MAFBNZ

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

Transitional facility

Means (a) any place approved as a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the purpose of inspection, testing, storage, treatment, holding or destruction of uncleared goods; or (b) a part of a port declared to be a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993)

4 EQUIVALENCE

It is expected that the product will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the product does not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to MAFBNZ for consideration prior to importation explaining the reason(s) why the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status. Where equivalence has been granted and a permit to import will be issued at the discretion of MAFBNZ.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**5 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

- 5.1 A permit to import is required for importing Antarctic fish.
- 5.2 Application for a permit to import must be made prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to the Animal Imports Team, Border Directorate MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P.O. Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Email: imports@maf.govt.nz
- 5.3 A permit to import may be issued for multiple consignments.

6. ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to Antarctic fish of the species specified in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 All requirements of this import health standard must be met for the commodity to be eligible for importation.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 7.1 The consignment must be accompanied by the following appropriately completed documentation:

- a. A copy of the valid permit to import; AND
 - b. A list of the scientific species name and number of Antarctic fish in each container, or the code/reference number of each container if relevant, comprising the whole consignment must accompany the consignment to New Zealand. A copy of this list must be provided to the supervisor of the transitional facility.
- 7.2 Documentation must be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).
- 7.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of the consignment.

8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 8.1 All fish in the consignment must be packaged in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations.
- 8.2 Antarctic fish from one species only are to be grouped in individual containers and must be packaged in leak-proof bags, each bag containing only one species.
- 8.3 Each container, or group of containers, is to be labeled with:
- EITHER i. the species and quantity contained within any container;
- OR ii. a code/reference number so that species and quantity contained within any container can be ascertained.
- 8.4 The bag must be colourless and sufficiently transparent to enable proper inspection and identification of the fish and must not contain any extraneous matter, unapproved plant material, pests or unauthorized species of fish. The use of outer bags of opaque materials or half-black bags to provide a dark shipping environment is acceptable provided the contents of the bag can be properly inspected to the satisfaction of the inspector.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 9.1 At the port of entry the Inspector must check there is a valid permit to import.
- 9.2 The outer containers, around the plastic bags, are to be sealed with seals approved by MAFBNZ to ensure that between application and removal security has been maintained, e.g. tape, Tyden seal or padlock.
- 9.3 A biosecurity direction must be issued to the importer or agent for the fish to move from the airport to the transitional facility.

- 9.4 The inspector is to notify the supervising veterinarian that Antarctic fish have been moved to the transitional facility.
- 9.5 Carriage by the importer or agent must be by a vehicle approved by MAFBNZ and by the quickest practicable route to the transitional facility.
- 9.6 The seals must be inspected by the inspector before the containers are opened and the fish placed in the transitional facility under his/her supervision.
- 9.7 If species of imported fish are not approved Antarctic fish then the operator is obliged to notify the inspector within seven days of importation to enable these to be destroyed under supervision.

10 QUARANTINE IN NEW ZEALAND

- 10.1 The fish will be held in the transitional facility named in the permit to import, and operating as per MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Standard 154.02.06 *Transitional Facilities for Ornamental Fish and Invertebrates*.
- 10.2 The quarantine period must be not less than six weeks.
- 10.3 The supervisor reserves the right to remove fish and/or specimens at any time for such tests as may be required. Fish must be made available for inspection by the supervisor. If an exotic disease or pathogenic disease agent is found the Chief Technical Officer may direct any, or all the fish to be detained in quarantine for further testing, or order their destruction.
- 10.4 All disease testing must be conducted at the Investigation and Diagnostic Centre, Wallaceville, Upper Hutt.
- 10.5 The supervisor reserves the right to remove fish and/or specimens at any time for such tests as may be required. Fish must be made available for inspection and dead fish must be kept under refrigeration, or as directed, by the supervisor.
- 10.6 Based upon the clinical and fish management history and the samples provided by the supervisor, the fish pathologist at the Laboratory must select the laboratory examinations that are appropriate. The specific disease agents of interest include:

Aeromonas salmonicida
Vibrio sp.
Edwardsiella sp.
Pasteurella sp.
Yersinia sp.
Streptococcus sp.
Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus
Epizootic haemorrhagic necrosis virus
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia
Salmonid herpes virus Type II
Spring viraemia of carp

Viral erythrocytic necrosis virus
Marine anaemia
Proliferative kidney disease
Kudoa sp.
Loma sp.

- 10.7 If an exotic disease or any of the disease agents listed above are found the Chief Technical Officer may direct any, or all, of the fish to be detained in quarantine for further testing, or order their destruction.

11 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

- 11.1 At the end of the quarantine period, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, providing documentation meets all requirements noted under Section 7, Documentation accompanying the consignment and in the *MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Standard 154.02.06 Transitional facilities for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates* to the satisfaction of the supervisor.
- 11.2 Consignments that do not meet New Zealand's import requirements will remain in quarantine control, be re-exported or destroyed at the importers expense.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

None required.

PART E: APPENDIX 1

SPECIES OF ANTARCTIC FISH ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND

TAXONOMIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Pagothenia borchgrevinki</i>	Bald notothen
<i>Trematomus bernacchii</i>	Emerald rockcod
<i>Trematomus hansonii</i>	Striped notothen or striped rockcod
<i>Trematomus pennellii</i>	Sharp-spined notothen
<i>Trematomus nicolai</i>	Spotted notothen
<i>Trematomus newnesi</i>	Dusky notothen
<i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i>	Antarctic toothfish
<i>Gymnodraco acuticeps</i>	Naked dragonfish
<i>Chionodraco hamatus</i>	
<i>Cryodraco antarcticus</i>	Long-fingered icefish

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